are also being arranged from time to time for large scale adoption by the farmers through various State Agricultural Universities and ICAR institutes.

Production of mustard seeds

†1175. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of mustard (edible oilseeds) in Rabi crops is likely to be more during 2005-06 as compared to the last year;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and whether it is a fact that due to over production, genuine producers will be forced to sell their produce less than the minimum support price; and

(c) if not, the provision made by Government therefor alongwith the arrangements made to procure mustard at minimum support price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) As per the 2nd advance estiamtes of production for the current year the production of rapeseed & mustard in 2005-06 is estimated at 76.98 lakh tonnes which is 6.67 lakh tonnes lower than the production in 2004-05 which was 83.56 lakh tonnes.

(b) and (c) The Government is implementing Price Support Scheme (PSS) for procurement of oilseeds and pulses including mustard seeds through NAFED which is the Central nodal agency, at the Minimum Support Price (MSP)declared by the Government. Losses incurred by NAFED in undertaking procurement operations are fully borne by the Central Government.

During rabi 2005 crop season, NAFED procured a record quantity of 20.93 lakh tonnes mustard valuing approximately Rs. 3900 crore under PSS and helped the farmers in getting remunerative price for their produce.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.